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(b) why at Irritti the construction of the new bridge was abandoned;

(c) whether the old bridge at Irritti has been restored, and if so, whether it is strong for all class of load appertaining to this particular road having particular regard to the growing heavy motor and other traffic on this road; and

(d) whether the old bridge has been restored to its original strength and if not, why not?

A.—The Government have approved of the construction of a new bridge at Kattupazha. Tenders for a reinforced concrete bridge have been received by the Chief Engineer and the Government hope to receive from him shortly revised plans and estimates for the work. It is not now proposed to reconstruct the Irritti bridge as the Chief Engineer has reported that the damaged bridge has been restored at a small cost to its original carrying capacity. The Government have agreed with the Chief Engineer that it is unnecessary to increase the carrying capacity of this bridge while other bridges on the Tellicherry-Coorg road which are capable of carrying only a lighter load remain as they are.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Wakf properties in this Presidency.

*206 *Q.*—MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many wakf properties in the Madras Presidency and that many of them are mismanaged;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring into force all the provisions of the Mussalman Wakf Act No. XLII of 1923 in this province; and

(c) if so, when and if not, why not?

A.—(a) There are several wakf properties in Madras Presidency, some of which, the Government understand, are not properly managed.

(b) & (c) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know how long the Government will take to consider and decide this simple question of introducing the provisions of the Mussalman Wakf Act of 1923 in this province?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Evidently, Sir, some of the members to whom I have addressed a communication on this matter do not find it so easy, and I have not yet received replies from my hon. Colleagues to whom I have referred these matters. As soon as I receive their replies, I will certainly be in a position to take any further action that may be necessary in the matter."

Assent of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

*207 *Q.*—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindu Religious Endowments Act has not been assented to by His Excellency the Viceroy; and

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(*b*) the expenditure incurred by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board from the date of its establishment till the end of 31st December 1926?

A.—(*a*) No. His Excellency the Viceroy has given his assent to the Bill.
(*b*) Rs. 2,61,301-3-0.

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"May I know if the lists of excepted and ordinary temples have been prepared under the Act?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"For what district?"

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"For all the districts."

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"It is rather a big question, Sir, and I am not in a position to give precise information for all the districts. If the hon. Member repeats his question or asks information for any particular district, I can give the information."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether any information has been received with regard to the Nellore district?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I shall let the hon. Member know in due course."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I know—I am afraid the hon. Minister may want notice—out of this sum of Rs. 2,61,301 and odd spent by this Board up to December 1926, how much represents the collections made by the Board and how much represents the loans advanced by this Government to the Religious Endowments Board?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"The collections I do not think, Sir, represent any appreciable portion of this figure given. But I want notice if more detailed information is required."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"That is quite enough for my purpose."

Education

Grant to Indian boarding houses.

* 208 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to the debates in the budget for 1926-27 on pages 461—464 of proceedings, dated 22nd March 1926, and the answer to my question No. 2224, dated 16th July 1926, and to state—

(*a*) to which institutions and how the grant of Rs. 30,000 for Indian boarding houses has been distributed; and

(*b*) whether Government have decided to propose an increase in the grant for Indian boarding houses in the budget for 1927-28 and, if so, by what amount as compared with the grant to European boarding houses?

A.—(*a*) The grant has not yet been distributed.
(*b*) The question of making an increased provision in the budget for next year is under consideration.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to clause (*a*), may I know why the grant has not yet been distributed?"